



THE GREAT NEW ZEALAND TREK
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media release

Media Release – Great New Zealand Trek

For immediate release

The Great New Zealand Trek snags two world class Mountain bikers as guides.

The Great New Zealand Trek is delighted to announce that two international Mountain Bikers have signed on as guides for this years Trek. 'Boyd Piebenga' and 'Marcello Ojerio' will both be flying in for the 07 Trek starting on the 24th of February.

'Boyd Piebenga' is a local New Zealand boy who has spent the last 8 years competing in Europe and America. Currently based in Oregon, the home of Mountain Biking, he is a regular on the Mountain Bike circuit as a competitor and professional guide. Boyd has taken wins in both one day and stage races as well as finishing third outright in the grueling "Cascade Creampuff" in Oregon (dubbed the toughest 100 mile mountain bike race in the world) riding a single speed (he won the single speed class).

'Marcello Ojerio' is a self confessed Mountain Bike nut and has spent the last 20 years immersed in the sport he loves. He has finished the 'Cascade Creampuff' four times, always competing in the hardcore single speed class. He has spent many a summer afternoon trying desperately to follow the wheel of lead guide, Boyd Piebenga. He is currently spending time with family in Honolulu, Hawaii, training for the Trek, working on his tan, and trying to make sense of how to properly pronounce Maori words.

Boyd and Marcello have ridden and competed against each other all over the globe and are excited to be taking part in the Great New Zealand Trek. According to Boyd "It's not like any other event in the World and I'm proud to be coming home to New Zealand to take part in such a prestigious and unique Trek. It's not a race but I know Marcello won't let me take it easy, I just hope I get some time to take in the scenery. I know I won't ever have the opportunity to see this terrain again". Working closely with local farmers the Trek traces a truly unique route that won't be open to the general public again.

About the Trek.

The Great New Zealand trek is held over 12 stages (one each year) and traverses from the far North to the deep South of New Zealand in a 'Race Towards a Cure' for Multiple Sclerosis.

Stage 2 will be held from February 24 to March 4, 2007 and travels approximately 200km's from Rawene to Pouto. The Trek is New Zealand's most ambitious outdoor event taking an army of trekkers the length of the country. Tapping into New Zealander's love for all things outdoors, the Trek pays particular attention to regional geography and customs as it covers each stage. Participants can choose to ride a horse, mountain bike ride or walk the distance, finishing each evening at the traveling campsite complete with gourmet mess hall, bar and hot showers.

The route is a mix of quiet back country roads, forestry, native bush, beach and farmland following the West Coast of Northland. Traveling through areas not normally accessible to the general public, this is a once in a lifetime opportunity. Farmers are providing access to their land for trekkers to pass through.

The Great New Zealand Trek enables people to travel the length of the country in supported luxury. Massage tents, spa pools, gourmet coffee and flushing toilets are available in the moving tent city.

The Trek and the MS Society.

The Trek is 'Racing Towards a Cure' for Multiple Sclerosis. The Multiple Sclerosis Society is undertaking a large research project into the prevalence of Multiple Sclerosis in New Zealand; to discover why the rates of affliction increase significantly the further south you live. There is a minimum pledge of \$50 from each Trekker. Trekkers are also encouraged to fundraise through gaining sponsorship for each kilometer trekked.

The Great New Zealand Trek was founded by Steve Old. Steve began organising events in aid of the Multiple Sclerosis Society in 1995 and has raised over \$200,000 dollars to date. Stage 2 of the Trek will have a full capacity of 500 participants who ride, bike or walk the Trek. Trekkers will be supported by over 100 volunteers.

For more information on Stage 2 of the Great New Zealand Trek visit our website at:

www.greatnewzealandtrek.com or contact:

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